

Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, January 7, 1875, with transcript

Copy of letter from Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell to her son, Alexander Graham Bell
January 7, 1875 Tutelo Heights Brantford, Ont., Canada Home, January 7th, 75 Prof. A.
Graham Bell 292 Essex Street Salem, Massachusetts (U.S.) My dear Aleck,

By the time this reaches Salem, we hope you will have safely returned there, and feel all the better for your week's sojourn in Washington. We hope too that all has gone on satisfactorily with regard to the Telegraph. Mrs. Lander lives in Washington, we wonder if you have come across her. I did not know she had returned from her tour through the Southern states, but from a recent letter from Mrs. Ottaway, we conclude Mrs. Lander is at home. I am sure she would have made you very welcome as her guest, during your stay in Washington. We are all well, I am glad to say, though the weather for a week past has been very cold. During the day the thermometer hovers about zero, but falls lower at night. The instrument this morning showed that it had fallen during last night to 20 degrees below. The days however are bright and clear. Your cousins appear to stand it very well. Aileen was here today, and begs I will send the enclosed apology. The photograph is most likely shut up in some book. They all went up a day or two ago to look at Mr. Wye's place which is to be sold, if he can get his price which is five thousand dollars for house and grounds, of 60 acres of land. The house however is considered too tumble-down. Uncle seems more disposed for a house in our neighboring wood than for anything else. If he should build there, you must construct a telegraph between his house and ours. Mr. Mitchell is much better but very weak. Did I tell you that Mrs. Sam Ballachey had presented her husband with a son? She has been ill for several days since, with congestion of the lungs, but is getting better. George was here at dinner and has taken Carrie off for three or four days. 2 Carrie heard from her Mother yesterday, all well but suffering from the excessive and unusual cold. The young people had been acting a

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private play (a fancy piece) during the holidays; continued flattering reports of Percy, and more favorable ones of James. I hope Mrs. O. will come out in May, I having written to her proposing it. I have not yet got her reply. Uncle James sent us a Scotsman, upwards of a page of which was occupied with accounts of the cold and snow-storms. The Clyde was frozen and trains blocked up by the snow. I hope Mary got safely back to Bath, for in the North traveling was both difficult and dangerous. I have very little home news to tell you. Papa has become almost as great a stay at home as I am. Uncle David is often here and the two potter about, laugh, and bet cents together. Papa has just informed me that you will not be in Washington before next Friday, I thought it was last week. Mrs. Lander's address is, 45 S. B. Street, Capitol Hill, Washington. I hope you will take great care against catching cold, though I believe Washington has a more temperate climate generally than Boston. Mrs. L. is expected to be in London about May. Nothing more is yet decided upon regarding the wedding. C. has expressed a wish to begin housekeeping with one of Miss Wye's girls which I am glad of, and hope it may be so arranged. I shall know when she returns home. Papa unites with me in fond love.

Ever your affectionate Mother, E. G. Bell.

My dear Aleck,

I pray your forgiveness for having wronged you, but I am sure you must confess that appearances were very much against you, after wanting to keep the photo. the night before. I hope you have been quite successful in Washington. She is quite well, always talking about you. I never speak about you, I am afraid, for fear it would become serious. It is just the same with Miss Rubidge. The Reads have begun Wednesday evenings, the same as our Friday ones. I hope you will be here for one some time.

I have promised to bring you. Now I must say good bye. Hoping you will forgive me, Your fond cousin, Aileen. I have never found the photograph.